

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

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A mechanism for providing a user with selective access to resources on an intranet. In a communications network accessible using HTTP, a reverse proxy server is coupled to an intranet and also coupled to a browser enabled client. Requests for access to resources inside the intranet are made through the reverse proxy server. Access to the requested resource is provided to the client by means of a capability-enabled uniform resource locator (URI) having a character string that is produce by encoding an identification number and a random number. The character string, identification number and random number are associated with a database record accessed by the reverse proxy server to determine whether access is to be provided to the client, and what conditions to apply to the access when the capability-enabled URI is invoked. Multiple resources may be grouped together in a secure container to which access is provided. The capability-enabled URI may be used to provide access to common gateway interface (CGI) scripts.